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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|--|---|---|
| Applicants: | James G. Wetmur et al. |) | |
| Serial No. | 09/898,750 |) | Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known |
| Filed: | July 3, 2001 |) | Examiner: Not Yet Known |
| Title: | NUCLEIC ACID DISPLACER COMPOSITIONS AND CELLS COMPRISING SAME (As Previously Amended) |) | Prev. Art Unit: 1656 Prev. Ex'r: Eggerton A. Campbell, Ph.D. |

527 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10022
December 23, 2002

FILED BY EXPRESS MAIL

Honorable Commissioner
for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

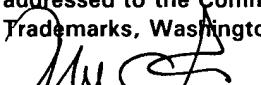
STATUS INQUIRY

Dear Sirs:

Through their undersigned attorney, Applicants respectfully request information on the status of their above-identified patent application. This application was filed as a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) on July 3, 2001. Since that time, a return postcard was received that indicated the serial number (09/898,750) and filing date (July 3, 2001) for this application.

According to the files of the Assignee, no filing receipt or other communication has yet been received in this application.

James G. Wetmur et al.
Serial No.: 09/989,750
Filed: July 3, 2001
Page 2 [Status Inquiry -- December 23, 2002]

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|---|--------------------------|
| EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE | |
| "Express Mail" Label No. <u>EV205342183US</u> | |
| Deposit Date | <u>December 23, 2002</u> |
| I hereby certify that this paper and the attachments herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington DC 20231. | |
|  | <u>DEC 23 2002</u> |
| Ronald C. Fedus Reg. No. 32,567 | Date |

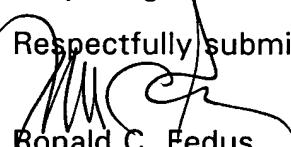
James G. Wetmur et al.
Serial No.: 09/989,750
Filed: July 3, 2001
Page 3 [Status Inquiry -- December 23, 2002]

A telephone call was placed during the week of December 16-20, 2002 to Group Art Unit 1600 (Tel. 703-308-0196) by the undersigned attorney who was informed that this application was still in Central Files and that no communications were issued since its filing on July 3, 2001.

It is respectfully requested that a filing receipt be issued as soon as possible and that the application be transferred to the assigned group so that examination can proceed promptly.

Favorable action on this inquiry is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald C. Fedus
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